

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2516

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise for the purpose of seeking unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 189, H.R. 2516.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I regret that objection has been raised in this context.

Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for a question, Does his objection to consideration of H.R. 2516 mean that the Senate will not take up this bill in this session?

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, that is correct.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I am disappointed over that decision, Mr. President, for passage of H.R. 2516 would have provided my State of Michigan with approximately \$200 million more than we averaged under ISTEA. However, I stand by ready to assist the chairman in ensuring all States receive a fair and equitable return on their gas tax dollar.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING SENATOR ROBERTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to say what an excellent job you are doing as Presiding Officer. I understand you are fast approaching the amount of time serving in the chair where you will receive the "Golden Gavel" recognition. I look forward to being able to come to the floor and pay tribute to you when that time is acquired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 381, 428 through 439, 444 through 447, 451 through 453, 456 and 466. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to these nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Saul N. Ramirez, Jr., of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Nancy H. Rubin, of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

A. Peter Burleigh, of California, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Bill Richardson, of New Mexico, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Richard Sklar, of California, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for UN Management and Reform.

Betty Eileen King, of Maryland, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Kirk K. Robertson, of Virginia, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Terrence J. Brown, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Mark Erwin, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 1999.

Harriet C. Babbitt, of Arizona, to be a Deputy Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Thomas H. Fox, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Cheryl F. Halpern, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 1999. (Reappointment)

Carl Spielvogel, of New York, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 1999. (Reappointment)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Linda Kay Breathitt, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2004.

Curt Herbert, Jr., of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 1999.

THE JUDICIARY

John M. Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Anita M. Josey of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court

of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Betty Eileen King, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Seth Waxman, of the District of Columbia, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

THE JUDICIARY

Stanley Marcus, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Jerome B. Friedman, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Norman K. Moon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

NOMINATION OF CURTIS L. HEBERT, JR.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate is sending two very distinguished and qualified new Commissioners to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I am pleased that my good friend Curtis L. Hebert, Jr. of Pascagoula, MS, is one of them.

Curt has served the State of Mississippi as a member of the Public Service Commission for several years. During that time, he has demonstrated the ability to balance the diverse utility interests in our State. This is no easy task. Mississippi is the home to both public and private power companies, PUHCA's and providers of all sizes. Curt has proven that he has the skills necessary to address the needs of each of these entities, while keeping the best interest of the consumer in mind.

As a former member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I certainly appreciate the high standard that FERC nominees are held to during committee consideration. Throughout the nomination process, Curt has demonstrated that he has not only the knowledge, but the determination and skills to get the job done. He has been a responsible and able steward of the utility industry in Mississippi. I expect that he will serve the FERC and our Nation with the same enthusiasm and foresight.

We all must recognize that electric utility deregulation is on the horizon. How and when a new system will be created remains to be seen. What is certain, however, is that the FERC will be instrumental in guiding Congress toward competition in the utility industry. I am confident that Curt has the experience and insight necessary to help us reach the right balance of interests. Most importantly, Curt understands what deregulation means on the State level.

There is no industry as complex as the utility world—and none that impacts the lives of Americans more directly every day. The challenge ahead are great and must be tackled head on. There is no denying that the FERC Commissioners have their work cut out for them.